

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 950

By Cobb J

A RESOLUTION to recognize Don E. Mathis on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Don Mathis is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for twenty-three years as the Rhea County Veterans Service Officer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mathis will be taking a much deserved retirement after many years of hard work and diligent effort; prior to his work as the Veterans Service Officer, he was employed with the Robinson Manufacturing Company (1979-84) and the Kayser-Roth Hosiery Company (1975-78); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mathis gained a deep understanding of the needs of veterans, having served as a proud member of the United States Marine Corps from 1954 until 1975, when he retired at the rank of Major after rendering valiant and brave service during the Korean and Vietnam Wars; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service, Don Mathis was a valued member of the Second and Third Marine Divisions and the Sixth Marine Corps District and was stationed at various times in Japan, California, Georgia, and Washington, D.C., where he reported to Marine Corps Headquarters as a member of the IG team; and

WHEREAS, Don Mathis continued to honorably serve his fellow veterans as an active and distinguished member of the Brady-Williams American Legion Post 100 in Dayton for thirty-one years, during which time he rendered peerless service as the Local Post Commander, the Local Post Adjutant and Finance Officer, and the Local Post Service Officer; and

WHEREAS, he also served with great distinction at the state level in the American Legion as State Department Rehabilitation Chairman from 1987-89, Department Veterans

Preference Chairman since 1987, Department Awards and Trophy Committee member since 1995, Department Service Officer since 2003, Third District Commander from 1990-91, and East Tennessee Vice Commander from 1997-98; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mathis received national recognition from the American Legion for his numerous contributions and abilities and was rightfully appointed to the National Legislative Council in 1995 and became a general member of the National VA&R Region Three the same year; he still serves in both of these prominent positions today; and

WHEREAS, Don Mathis was specially recognized by several Governors by his appointment to the Tennessee State Veterans Home Board of Directors, of which he was a member from 1997-2006; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mathis exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is most thankful for the love and support he receives from his wife, Hiroko; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Don Mathis has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Don E. Mathis our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement after twenty-three years of honorable service as the Rhea County Veterans Service Officer and for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.